NDCI Chair

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL Friday, January 7, 1983

Philips Gets Inquiry From Soviets as They Push Consulate Bid

Special to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL AMSTERDAM, the Netherlands - N.V. Philips, the Dutch electrical group, is considering a Soviet proposal that it build a color-television plant in the Soviet Union.

A company spokesman in Eindhoven said a Soviet technical mission recently visited the Netherlands, and that talks were in an exploratory stage.

He said Philips believes it is the only company involved in such talks, but newspapc reports suggested that Soviet representat. es also approached West German and Japanese manufacturers.

News of the talks was leaked to the Dutch press by Soviet Embassy officials in

the Hague, diplomatic sources said, in order to advance a Soviet demand for a consulate in Rotterdam.

The Dutch have resisted this for many years, citing security reasons and the proximity of the Soviet Embassy in the Hague. The matter was to be discussed in a Dutch Cabinet meeting today.

The Soviet Union recently threatened to divert Soviet cargo from Rotterdam to other ports and to cancel planned investments in cargo-handling installations if the request

for a consulate is turned down again.

Rotterdam Mayor Bram Peper has warned that 400 jobs could be lost if the Soviet Union carries out its threats.

STAT